

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Thank the Examiner for the renumbering of claims per 37 CFR §1.126.
2. Cancel claims 7 – 12, 14, and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.
3. Advise the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of a Terminal Disclaimer to moot the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1 – 6, 13, and 15 – 17.
4. Amend dependent claim 16 to moot the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, by specifying that the sufficient thickness is related to providing strength against radial loads¹. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned telephonically if the proposed amendment is not agreeable or if issues remain.
5. Amend dependent claim 15 to moot the objection on the fourth page of the office action.
6. Request a one month extension of time.

B. THE TERMINAL DISCLAIMER

The Examiner is advised of the simultaneous electronic filing of a Terminal Disclaimer to moot the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1 – 6, 13, and 15 – 17. Applicant does not agree with the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of each of claims 1 – 6, 13, and 15 – 17, and contends that subject matter of various dependent claims is patentably distinct over independent claim 1 of US Patent

¹ For support, *see*, e.g., paragraph [0013] of the specification.

7,007,781. However, the Terminal Disclaimer is submitted as an accommodation to the Examiner and to hasten prosecution.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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